

Wakefield To Launch Baseball Drills Mar. 1

By JIMMY TUCKER

Coach Mort Irwin of Wakefield High School expects about sixty aspirants to turn out for baseball practice on the first day of March and the Warriors seem to have a sound nucleus with which to build a solid ball club.

From this group of boys Irwin intends to select between 34 and 40 to fill out his varsity and junior varsity squads as he prepares for the rugged schedule adopted by the second-year Warriors for his spring.

Catcher Ken Darling led the

team in batting last year with a .391 average and is back this year trying to hold on to his position as first string plate-squatter.

Irwin appears to be well fixed for pitchers with lefthander Mert McGill and righthanders Butch Varden, Hallie Lightle, and Nolan Hill all returning from last year's outfit.

Dan Breeden is coming back but whether he wants to remain in the outfield or move to the infield is a current mystery. Dan played the infield for McQuinn's in last summer's 15 and Under Recreation league and may try to move out of Wakefield's pasture.

Henry Mayo is coming back from last year's outfield and the tall, hard swaitting lad will probably be fighting for his old job.

Southpaw Joe Morris is expected to seek his old berth in the outfield for the Warriors.

Frank Stevens is another mystery. Last year he was both outfielder and catcher for Irwin but in the summer Frank roamed around first base for McQuinn's ball club.

Rick Schlapkohl is one of those rare boys known as a pitcher and a dangerous hitter, but where he will be used this year is optional.

Coach Irwin will be assisted by Maynard Haithcocke, who will direct the Junior Varsity as well as work with the big boys.

Coach Irwin said that last year his team over-scheduled games with tough teams purposely to gain experience. Irwin substituted freely against the rough schools while running up a respectable record of seven wins, seven defeats, and one tie. Many boys who would be awed by playing against top teams have gained confidence now that they have done it before.

Coach Irwin is insisting that the basketball boys take at least one, and preferably two, weeks off to rest. Several boys have been at it since football season opened so Irwin feels that it is wiser to give them a well earned break.

Despite the number of veterans expecting to report for practice Coach Irwin welcomes all new boys to come out for the team. It seems that all boys who played last year will have to make the team all over again, by demonstrating their enthusiasm and ability this year, and not relying on past performances. Several positions are wide open and Irwin would not be surprised to find some strange faces replacing some old stand-bys.

THE SCHEDULE

April 7, Richard Montgomery (seven innings) away, 3:30 p.m.

April 12, George Mason (seven innings) away, 3:30 p.m.

April 15, St. Stephens (seven innings) home, 3:30 p.m.

April 19, Annandale, away, 3:30 p.m.

April 22, Washington-Lee Junior Varsity, away, 3:30 p.m.

April 26, Fairfax, home, 2:30 p.m.

April 29, Osbourn, home, 3:30 p.m.

April 30, Herndon, home, 8:00 p.m.

May 3, Falls Church, away, 3:30 p.m.

May 6, George Washington, home, 8:00 p.m.

May 7, St. Stephens, home, 8:00 p.m.

May 10, Herndon, away, 2:00 p.m.

May 13, Mt. Vernon, home, 8:00 p.m.

May 17, Fairfax, away, 3:30 p.m.

May 18, Episcopal (seven innings) home, 3:30 p.m.

May 20, Washington-Lee Junior Varsity, home, 8:00 p.m.

May 24, Osbourn, away, 3:30 p.m.

May 27, Annandale, home, 8:00 p.m.

May 30, George Mason, home, 3:00 p.m.

May 31, Suitland (seven innings) home, 3:30 p.m.